



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

September 24, 2023

Second Sunday After the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

Third Sunday After the Holy Cross

Phil 3:17-4:1 (Wrong Conduct and Our Goal/Live in Concord)

Mt 24:23-31 (The Great Tribulation/The Coming of the Son of Man)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for September 10th - 16th

Online.....\$978.30

Collection.....\$453.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,431.30

YTD Total.....\$67,918.47

YTD Goal.....\$85,396.00

YTD Difference.....-\$17,477.53

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 24th, 11:00am

Available

Monday, September 25th

Available

Tuesday, September 26th

Available

Wednesday, September 27th

Available

Thursday, September 28th

Available

Friday, September 29th

In honor of The Holy Archangels St Michael St Gabriel & St Raphael

Saturday, September 30th

Available

Sunday, October 1st

Available

Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 10:00 am before the morning Liturgy.

Confession every Sunday 10:35-10:50am before the morning Liturgy.

Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays at 10:30 am before the Liturgy begins.

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, September 24th

Redmond Family

Sunday, October 1st

Available

PRAY THE ROSARY

EVERY SUNDAY BEFORE MASS WE PRAY THE
ROSARY AT 10:30AM.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PERSON OR WITHIN
YOUR OWN FAMILY TO PRAY THE ROSARY
TOGETHER.



SUNDAYS 10:30AM

Parish Council

Charlie Ashou

Eva Bekahi

Ben El Hajj

Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Lydia Massaad

+Doug Raab

+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Peter Rizk

Mitch Siekmann



40 Days for Life, Portland
welcomes you
to

Fall Campaign 2023 Opening Rally

Featuring Speakers on Abortion,
THE most Important issue of our time

Saturday, September 23rd, 2023 9:30 A.M.

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
790 A Avenue, Lake Oswego
in the Parish Hall

Come and see how you can make a difference.

For more information email :
preciouschildrenofpdx@protonmail.com

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Next Collection: **October 22, 2023**, World Mission Sunday—
Propagation of the Faith

+Finance Committee

Parish Programs

Maronite Young Adults (MYA)



MYA is a local chapter of a national Maronite organization for single and married men and women ages 19+

For more info on the MYA, contact Claude@trazzafoods.com



Wanted ONE Holy Hour per Week!

Contact Nadia Redmond
503-671-0440

-or-

Email: n.redmond@comcast.net

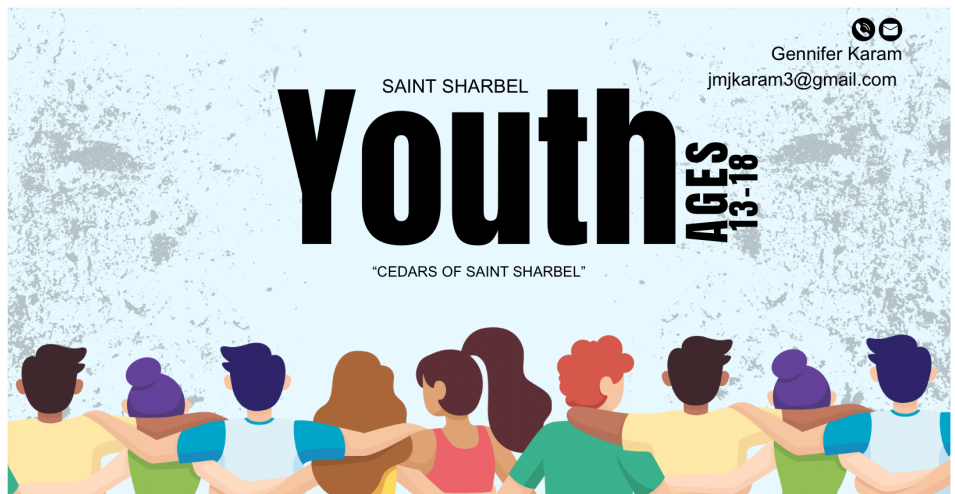
Religious Education

To ALL Families with children
between Ages 6-11



For Information about family catechesis and sacrament preparation Contact Nadia Redmond, Coordinator of Religious Education,
n.redmond@comcast.net

Please continue to pray for our parish and ministries.



Rescheduled: Mandatory parent meeting **OCTOBER 1st**, during the first part of the Cedars meeting

So great is the faith of the Thief whose Lord was crucified upon the Tree and Whose forgiveness he requested. With nails in His hands and feet, he said to Him, "Forgive me my transgression!" Behold, Simon who had seen denied [Him], John stood afar, and the Thief cried out, "Remember me when You come!" (From the prayers of the Feast of the Holy Cross)

In mostly every other situation, it would be odd to hold up a thief as an example of how we should behave. But throughout the Syriac tradition, the Fathers constantly call our attention to how exemplary the Thief crucified next to Christ is (Luke 23:39-43). Simon Peter, who only shortly before the Passion professed that he would never abandon Christ, denied him and ran away. John, known as the Beloved Disciple and who laid his head on Jesus' chest at the Last Supper, now stands afar. But it was a thief, who admitted his execution was deserved, is raised up as our saintly example even above the first Bishop of Rome and an apostle. From the Thief, we learn three salient lessons.

The Thief sees with what the Syriac Fathers call the "Eye of the Spirit." Christ was beaten and about to die, yet to the Thief He was clearly the Lord of All. While others taunted Him to save Himself, the Thief understood that He was the One without Whom His persecutors would cease to exist. Peter, though he had seen Christ manifest His godly glory at the Transfiguration, still did not understand. But the Thief in his heart understood well when Christ said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25). That day, the Thief gained eternal life in heaven by dying in faith, but Peter died by denouncing God until he would repent.

The Thief's plea for mercy from God reminds us that we should and must call out to God to save us from our sin. Even in the day of his death, the Thief still had hope because Jesus is the Hope of the Hopeless. Whereas an external observer would say the Thief died and Peter lived by fleeing, we know that the Thief gained eternal life and Peter had rejected the Lord of Life at that moment. The Thief knew that no sin, even one that brought him to death, was larger than the mercy of God – his name is a reminder, in that we remember him by his crime but laud him for his faith. God is the judge of heart and mind, and not restricted to human concepts of justice. He is always eager to have mercy – and when Peter repented from his denunciation of Jesus, he too was forgiven and became the highest bishop of the Church.

The last lesson from the Thief is that we are reminded God is the Judge of Judges – not us. It can be difficult not to judge people by their pasts and appearances, but we must remember we not determine who is worthy of the forgiveness or blessing of the Most High God! After all, it was Sts. Peter and John, apostles and bishops, who ran or stood afar. It was the Thief who was pleasing to God in that moment. But the temporary lapse of Peter also did not define the rest of his life – with sincere repentance came perfect reconciliation!

Like the Thief, let us seek God with spiritual eyes instead of the judgment of man. Like the Thief, let us call out to God at all hours, in spite of how hopeless our situations may look. Like the Thief, let us not try to replace the judgment of God with our own but be confident in His steadfastness! May prayers of the Thief be a rampart to us!

Bulletin Sponsors



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